



A Kingdom Worth Everything!

The Parables about a Field, a Pearl and a Net - Matthew 13

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@SouthReno.com.

Jesus answered them, "To you (Disciples) it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted."
- Matthew 13:11, NASB95

A. Understanding the Parables

1. The Treasure in the _____.

Matthew 13:44, NLT -⁴⁴ "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field."

A. The common interpretation of this parable is that the sinner finds Christ and gives up all that he possesses to gain Him and be saved.

- But Jesus is not hidden (Mark 7:24, "He cannot be hid...")
- The sinner cannot find Jesus—Jesus finds him/her.
- Our salvation cannot be "purchased."
- The man did not purchase the treasure, only the whole field.
- Matthew 13:38, "The field is the world."
- Does the sinner buy the field (the world) to gain Christ?
- Would someone then "hide (Christ) again?"

B. I believe the treasure is Israel and the Man is Jesus.

Exodus 19:5, NLT -⁵ "...you (O Israel)...will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. (cf., Rev. 5:1-7, Jeremiah 32)

Psalm 135:4, NIV -⁴ For the LORD has chosen...Israel to be his treasured possession.

- The Nation of Israel was placed in the world to bring glory to God but it failed.
- It became a 'hidden nation'—a treasure not producing dividends. (John 11.51; Isaiah 53:8)
- May 14, 1948—Israel (a treasure to God) is reborn physically and will soon be reborn spiritually.
- God died for the whole world, in part, to save Israel—His treasure.

2. The Merchant and the _____.

Matthew 13:45–46, NIV -⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

- The same objections apply: The sinner does not find Christ—Christ finds the sinner; No sinner can pay for salvation—even if he sells all that he/she has.

A. I believe the pearl of great price is the church.

1 Corinthians 10:32, NIV -³² Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God...

B. The pearl is produced through suffering (ie., a pearl).

C. The church is being "formed" right now by Christ.

3. The Sorting of the _____.

Matthew 13:47–50, NLT -⁴⁷ "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. ⁴⁹ That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous..."

A. When Christ returns to earth, to fight the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:11ff), He will separate believers from unbelievers.

B. In the end, you will have Israel, the church and the lost.

C. This parable—very significant—speaks of urgency about the Kingdom.

Rather than being a picture of how the sinner obtains Christ, these three parables give a picture of how Christ obtains the sinner. - Pastor Joe